

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 44 or 45 wherein said polypeptide induces astrogial proliferation.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule according to any one of Claims 44 or 45 wherein said molecule is of human origin.

31.-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule according to any one of Claims 44 or 45 encoding a murine homologue of human VEGF and comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16.

34.-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 4.

45. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 8.

46. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 10.

47. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising the sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 3).

48.-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of Claim 44, 45, or 46 wherein said polypeptide has at least one of the following properties:

- (i) an ability to induce vascular endothelial cells;
- (ii) an ability to interact with *flt-1/flk-1* family of receptors; or
- (iii) an ability to induce cell migration, cell survival or an increase in intracellular levels of alkaline phosphatase.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of the sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:3).

53. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4.

54. (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acids 22 to 207 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

55. (New) An isolated nucleic acid comprising nucleotides 66 to 626 of SEQ ID NO:3.

56. (New) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of nucleotides 66 to 626 of SEQ ID NO:3.

57. (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a nucleic acid and encoding a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 22 to 207 of SEQ ID NO:4.

58. (New) The nucleic acid of Claim 54, 55 or 57 wherein said polypeptide has at least one of the following properties:

- (i) an ability to induce vascular endothelial cells;
- (ii) an ability to interact with *flt-1/flk-1* family of receptors; or
- (iii) an ability to induce cell migration, cell survival or an increase in intracellular levels of alkaline phosphatase.

59. (New) A murine homologue of the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 44 comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.